



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Water Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Steps up Inspection of Boats at Miramar Reservoir in Response to Increased Quagga Mussel Infestation

SAN DIEGO – In response to the discovery of a significant population of quagga mussels at Miramar Reservoir, the City of San Diego Water Department will step up inspections of watercraft used by the public at the lake. The mussels have been found attached to the dock and work floats. This is the first large population of quagga mussels found in any City reservoir.

Over the next several weeks, the Water Department will further investigate the infestation and decide the best course to implement control practices. To date, the Water Department has inspected four of its reservoirs – Miramar, Murray, Lower Otay, and San Vicente – and found quagga veligers at all four sites.

Quagga mussels can be spread by aqueducts, commercial ships and recreational boats. The mussels can multiply rapidly, clog pipes and pumping machinery, and negatively impact or alter the ecosystem of lakes and reservoirs.

Quagga mussels can dramatically change the food chain in lakes and reservoirs, leading to reduced sport fish populations. Importantly, once the ecosystem is altered, the growth of algae can occur and affect the taste and odor of a region's drinking water. In addition, because the mussels are often spread by boats, attempts to stop the spread of the mussels could affect recreational use of the City's reservoirs.

The Water Department is working with state and regional agencies on a comprehensive program to detect and control quagga mussels.

People who use personal boats on City reservoirs are asked to help avoid the spread of quagga mussels and the potential closure of the reservoirs by:

- Draining all water from your vessel before leaving the reservoir parking lot.
- Making sure any vessel is dry inside and out before traveling from one freshwater body to another.

More information about quagga mussels is available on the City's web site at:

www.sandiego.gov/water/recreation/quaggamussels.shtml.

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